

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 97-125 as follows:

--97. A method of watermarking material and transferring the watermarked material in a system comprising at least one first processor, a plurality of second processors, and a communications network for transferring the watermarked material from the at least one first processor to one or more second processors, the method comprising the steps of:

using the first processor to apply a watermark to material;

using the communications network in push mode to transfer the watermarked material from the first processor to the one or more second processors;

subject to predetermined conditions being satisfied, transferring to the second processor watermark removal data; and

using the second processor to remove the watermark using the said removal data.

98. A method according to claim 97 wherein the communications network is an electronic communications network.

99. A method according to claim 97, wherein the removal data is secured against unauthorized access thereto.

100. A method according to claim 97, wherein the removal data is secured against unauthorized modification thereto.

101. A method according to claim 97, wherein the second processor is linked by a network to other processors.

102. A method according to claim 101 wherein the other processors are operable to access material stored in the first processor.

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103 A system comprising a transaction server and first and second client processors, the system being arranged to implement the method of claim 97.

104. A method according to claim 97, wherein the material is video material.

105. A method according to claim 97, wherein the material is audio/visual material.

106. A method according to claim 97 wherein the material is audio material.

107. A method according to claim 97, wherein the material is data material.

108. A suite of computer programs containing instructions which, when run on a system comprising a server and first and second client processors, configures the system to operate according to the method of claim 103.

A1 109. A suite of computer programs containing instructions which, when run on a system comprising the first and second processors configures the system to operate according to the method of claim 97.

110. A method of watermarking and transferring watermarked material in a system comprising at least one first processor, a plurality of second processors, and a communications network for transferring the watermarked material from the at least one first processor to one or more second processors, the method comprising the steps of

using the first processor to (i) create a watermark, defined by (a) an invertible algorithm and (b) at least one security key associated with the algorithm and (ii) provide a material identifier;

using said first processor to associate the material identifier with the material and apply the watermark to the material;

storing said material identifier and data for inverting the algorithm including the said at least one key;

using the communications network to transfer in push-mode the watermarked material from the at least one first processor to the plurality of second processors;

subject to predetermined conditions being satisfied, transferring to the second processor watermark removal data associated with said material identifier, the removal data including at least one key and data defining an algorithm for removing the watermark in conjunction with the key; and

using the second processor to remove the watermark using the said removal data.

111. A method according to claim 110, wherein the watermarked material is transferred to the second processor via an electronic communications link.

A₁ 112. A method according to claim 110, further comprising the step of storing metadata relating said watermarked material, the metadata being referenced to the material by said identifier.

113. A method according to claim 112, further comprising the step of storing material in the second processor in dependence on metadata associated with the material.

114. A method according to claim 110, further comprising storing financial rules relating to use of the material.

115. A method according to claim 114, further wherein the financial rules are referenced to the material by said identifier.

116. A method according to claim 110, further comprising storing business rules relating to use of the material.

117. A method according to claim 110, further comprising storing statistical data relating to transactions associated with the material.

118. A method according to claim 110 wherein the removal data is secured against unauthorized access thereto.

119. A method according to claim 110 wherein the removal data is secured against unauthorized modification thereto.

120. A system comprising a transaction server and first and second processors, the system being arranged to implement the method of claim 110.

121. A method according to claim 110, wherein the material is video material.

122. A method according to claim 110, wherein the material is audio/visual material.

123. A method according to claim 110, wherein the material is audio material.

124. A method according to claim 110, wherein the material is data material.

125. A suite of computer programs containing instructions which when run on a system comprising first and second processors configures the system to operate according to the method of claim 110.--

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